

ROUTING

Top Secret 2.3

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Tuesday November 9, 1976 CI NIDC 76-262C

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State Dept. review completed.

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[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday November 9, 1976.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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[REDACTED]

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LEBANON: Situation Report

[redacted] //Syrian troops, acting as members of the Arab League peacekeeping forces, yesterday took their first moves to enforce the cease-fire agreed to by the Arab summit at Cairo last month. They moved into the Christian-controlled villages of Mutayn and Aynturah in the Mount Lebanon area and took up positions near the leftist-held town of Alayh.//

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[redacted] //There have been conflicting reports on the number of leftists, including Iraqi contingents, based in Alayh. The anticipated Syrian move on the town should provide a major test of whether the leftists will acquiesce peacefully in Syrian efforts to open up the major access routes to west Beirut.//

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[redacted] //Christian troops reportedly have begun to withdraw from Mutayn, Aynturah, and other areas in the mountains and they will pull back from contested areas along the Beirut confrontation line if the initial Syrian advances prove successful.//

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[redacted] //Although both sides evidently feel constrained by the Syrians to go along with the cease-fire for the moment, each probably remains wary of the other's aims. The Christians, for example, suspect that the Palestinians and leftists will offer Syrian troops a stiff resistance around their strongholds south of Beirut, especially at Alayh and Suq al Gharb. The Syrians reportedly have reassured the Christians that they will not tolerate any such resistance.// [redacted]

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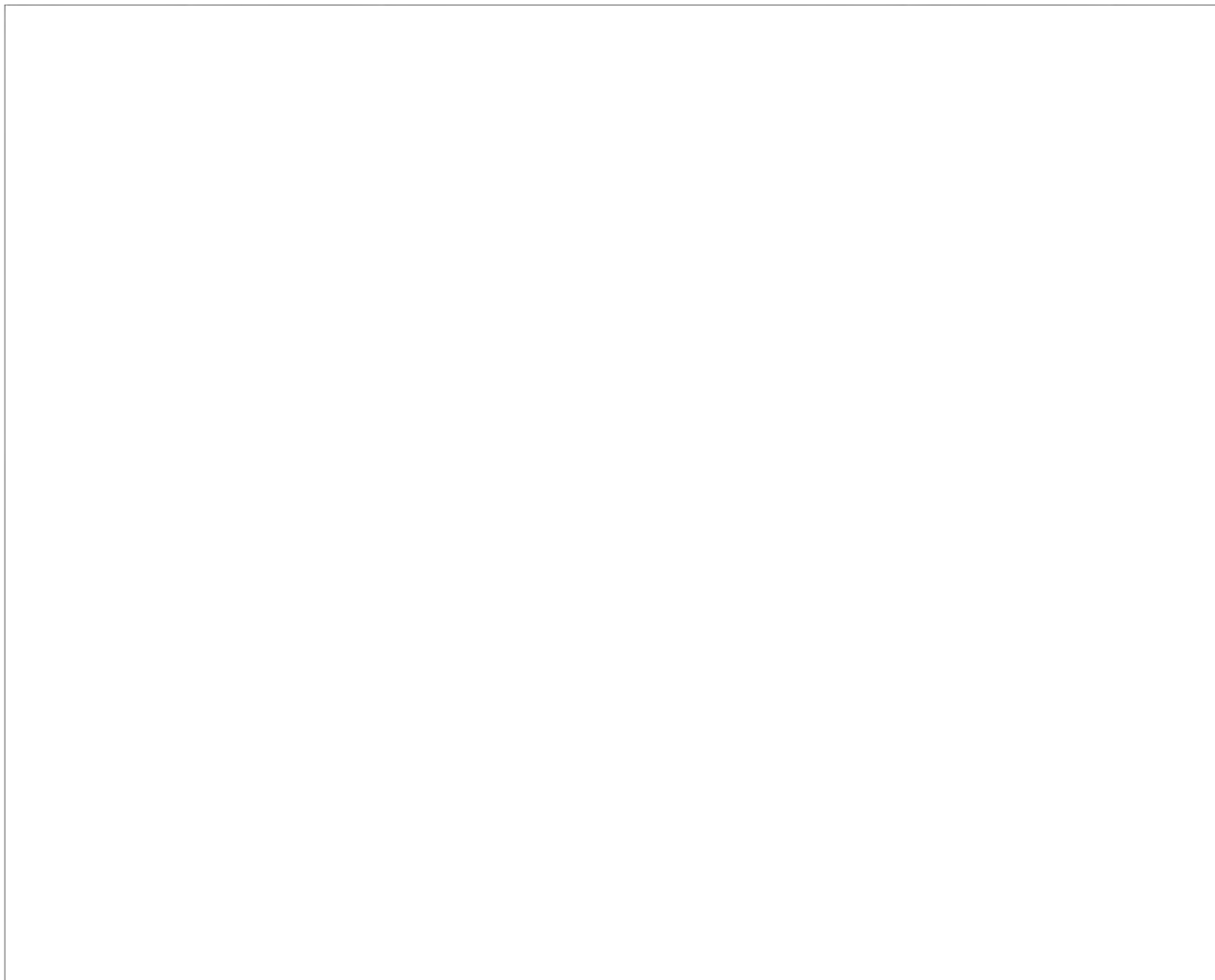
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LIBYA-CARIBBEAN: Expanding Ties

 There have been a number of indications in the last six months of expanding ties between Libya and governments in the Caribbean.

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--In late October a Libyan diplomat arrived in Guyana to establish a resident mission.



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[REDACTED]

--Also in late October a Libyan Foreign Ministry official held talks with Jamaican Foreign Minister Thompson that apparently were aimed at paving the way for a Libyan embassy in Jamaica.

//--The leftist minister of labor and social affairs in the Netherlands Antilles was invited to attend Libya's independence celebration in early September. The government would not permit him to go, but several private citizens, including a member of parliament, did attend.//

--In May Libya established diplomatic relations with Surinam and Grenada, the two countries in the region that have most recently achieved independence.

[REDACTED] Before this year, Libya's embassy in Caracas was responsible for Tripoli's limited interests in the Caribbean--diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and commercial contacts with the Netherlands Antilles, whose offshore refineries have in the past processed small amounts of Libyan oil.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The governments in the English-speaking Caribbean that have recently established ties with Libya are all in need of foreign assistance and undoubtedly view the Qadhafi government as a potential donor. A Libyan economic mission visited Guyana last July and at that time Foreign Minister Wills told the US embassy that economic assistance would be a prerequisite for permitting Libya to open a diplomatic mission.

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[REDACTED] The new Libyan charge in Georgetown said last week that he expects agreement to be reached soon on several bilateral projects. Grenada also hopes to receive Libyan loans.

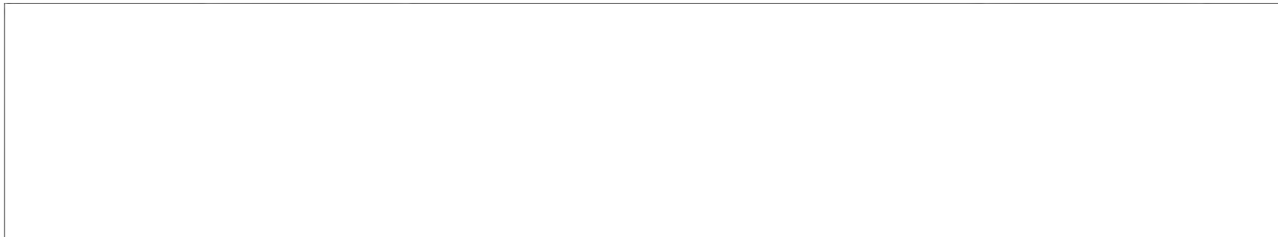
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SAUDI ARABIA - JORDAN: Troops Withdrawn

[] Saudi Arabia is pulling out its 5,600 troops stationed in Jordan. Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan attended a farewell ceremony on Sunday at Karak, some 50 miles south of Amman; a contingent of Saudi troops has been there since the 1967 war. Some troops already have returned to Saudi Arabia.

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[] The Saudis have planned since early summer to withdraw their troops from Jordan; they reportedly informed the Jordanians in July. The timing of the pullout apparently was dictated by the availability of transportation and housing for the returning troops, and does not indicate a strain in relations between the two countries.

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[] Both countries are publicly treating the Saudi pullout as part of Riyadh's plans to modernize its forces with western equipment, much of which will not be available for some time. The US embassy in Jidda believes that Saudi Arabia simply may no longer see a need to station a token force in the confrontation area to demonstrate its leadership in the Arab world.//

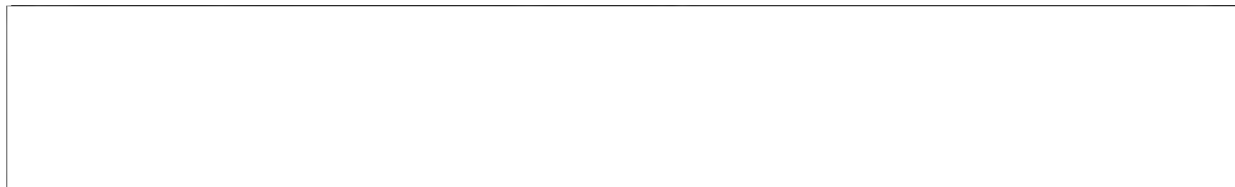
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[] In October, the Saudis withdrew some 5,900 men stationed in Syria since the war of 1973. A small contingent of Saudi troops remains in Syria to support the 200-man Saudi peacekeeping force in Lebanon.// []

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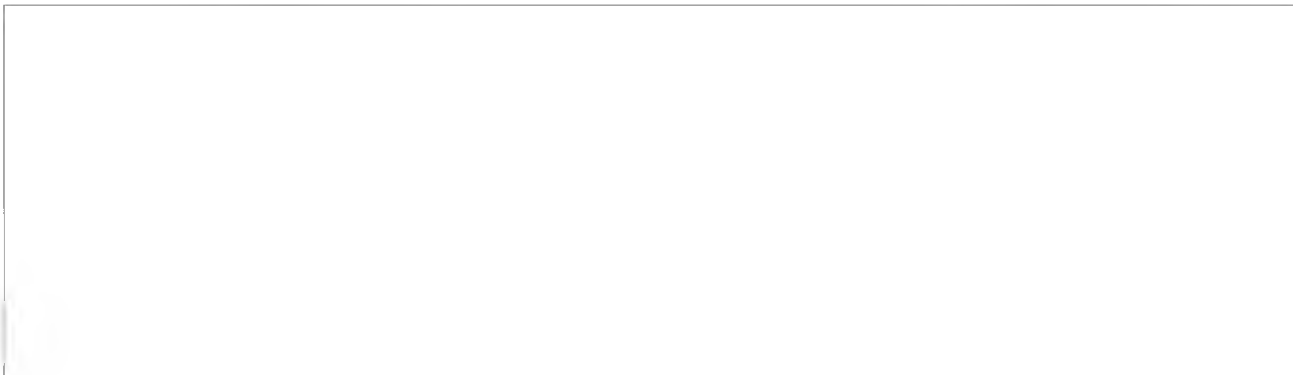
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SWEDEN: Labor Negotiations

[] Sweden's new center-right coalition is faced with a potentially serious labor-management dispute.

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[] The Swedish Employers' Federation, following the installation of the first non-socialist government in over 40 years, jumped the gun earlier by indicating that it plans to take a hard line in the annual contract negotiations this week with the central trade union federation. The employers new leader says his organization intends to reject wage increases unless the unions agree to various measures to increase productivity.

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[] The head of the central labor federation branded the position taken by the employers "not worthy of discussion." Union leaders earlier had warned that the defeat of the Social Democrats in the election in September had put them in a difficult position with their memberships, and that they would have to react strongly if the employers took a hard line.

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[] Prime Minister Falldin's coalition is caught in the middle. It will try both to pressure the employers to moderate their position and to smooth ruffled union feathers. It presumably can succeed with the employers, but it may be difficult for labor leaders to change their position now that the issue has been made public.

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[] The row appears likely to complicate the government's plans to deal with Sweden's slower-than-expected economic recovery and increasing balance-of-payments deficit. The principal cause is the rapid increase in wages--up 22 percent last year and possibly another 15 percent this year--which has eroded Sweden's competitive position.

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[] Conservative Party leader Bohman, who also heads the Economics Ministry, had announced in parliament a package of corrective measures including a boost in the Value Added Tax and higher taxes on energy and such non-essentials as alcohol and tobacco. He urged voluntary savings and warned that the government might have to resort to compulsory savings measures.

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[] In addition to these economic problems, the government must soon make a firm decision on the controversial question of nuclear energy policy. The opposition Social Democrats continue to accuse the government of opportunism in exploiting popular opposition to nuclear energy expansion during the campaign and then reneging on its promises after the election. Although it has consented to the fueling of a new nuclear plant, the government has indicated that it will not allow two other plants to be activated as scheduled. []

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